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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FODAG ROME

LONDON FOR YORK AND INGERSOLL

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC APMAR 30, 1973

FROM GENEVA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 1415

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD, GATT

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION ON COMMODITIES

BEGIN SUMMARY: UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IS MOVING AHEAD ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT RECENT COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES AND WILL MEET WITH FAO NEXT WEEK. CHOICE OF LIST OF COMMODITIES REMAINS A DILEMMA AND SOME TYPE OF FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WILL BE HELD. IN INTERIM SECRETARIAT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN US THINKING ON COMMODITIES SUCH AS HARD FIBERS WHERE SOME PROGRESS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY VIEWS IT WISHES PASS ON INFORMALLY TO SECRETARIAT, BELIEVE THIS IS TIME TO DO SO SINCE SECRETARIAT THINKING IS STILL IN FORMATIVE STAGE. END SUMMARY

1. MISOFF MET INFORMALLY MAR 28 WITH DIR OF COMMODITIES DIVISION (CHIDZERO) TO REVIEW RESULTS OF RECENT MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON
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COMMODITIES AND SECRETARIAT THINKING ON IMPLEMENTATION. CHIDZERO SAID RESOLUTION (NOW DESIGNATED AS RES 7 VII) NOT ALL SECRETARIAT HAD HOPED FOR BUT ONE WITH WHICH IT CAN LIVE. HE SAID DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE VERY DISAPPOINTED ABOUT RESULTS. THEY ARE UNHAPPY WITH THEMSELVES FOR NOT HAVING RUSHED AGREEMENT ON A LIST OF COMMODITIES AND IRRITATED WITH GROUP B (DEVELOPED) COUNTRIES FOR HAVING SO SUCCESSFULLY EXPLOITED THEIR WEAKNESS.

2. SECRETARIAT WILL MEET WITH FAO NEXT WEEK TO REVIEW SITUATION. STAFF LEVEL WILL FIRST ATTEMPT PREPARE AGREED DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM AND PROCEDURES WHICH WILL THEN BE DISCUSSED BY UNCTAD SG AND FAO DG. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WANTS HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON FOUR TO FIVE COMMODITIES OR COMMODITY GROUPS BY END OF 1973. FAO ALREADY HAS PROGRAM OF MEETINGS AND PROBLEM IS TO SEE WHETHER AND, IF SO, HOW TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, FAO HAS MEETINGS SCHEDULED ON HARD FIBERS AND BANANAS BUT SECRETARIAT NOT SURE THESE MEETINGS SHOULD BE IN CONTEXT OF RES 7 VII.

3. CHIDZERO SAID LIST OF COMMODITIES REMAINS PROBLEM EXPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF REFERENCE TO AGREEMENT ON LIST IN PARA 9 OF RES 7 VII. SECRETARIAT TRYING PICK LIST WITH GREATEST COMMON APPEAL. MAIN CANDIDATE IS FATS AND OILS FOLLOWED BY RICE AND TOBACCO. MISOFF SAID HE HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT CHOICE OF COMPLEX GROUP SUCH AS

FATS AND OILS FOR FIRST CONSULTATIONS. OBJECTIVES WOULD SEEM BETTER SERVED BY CHOICE OF COMMODITY SUCH AS HARD FIBERS WHERE PROSPECTS FOR FAVORABLE OUTCOME ARE REASONABLE. CHIDZERO AGREED THAT IT IMPORTANT FOR FIRST CONSULTATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED A SUCCESS. BUT HARD FIBERS PRESENTED TWO PROBLEMS. FIRST, FAO SEEMS TO WANT TO KEEP HARD FIBERS TO ITSELF AND MAY BE DIFFICULT WORK OUT PROCEDURES BEFORE SCHEDULED FAO MEETING WHICH ONLY WEEKS AWAY.

SECOND, TRADE IN HARD FIBERS NOT LARGE OR DIVERSIFIED ENOUGH TO APPEAL TO ALL GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS. CHIDZERO SAID THAT SECRETARIAT WILL FORMALLY SEEK VIEWS OF GOVERNMENTS BUT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN US THINKING ON OTHER COMMODITIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHERE SOMETHING POSITIVE MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED. IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID SECRETARIAT WAS MISLED BY COMMUNITY ON APPROACH TO RES 83(III). EC OFFICIALS HAD ASSURED SECRETARIAT BEFORE MEETING THAT THEY WOULD MOVE AHEAD ON RESOLUTION AND IN FACT WOULD BE IN POSITION TO MAKE SOME UNSPECIFIED " OFFERS" ON SPECIFIC COMMODITIES.

4. CHIDZERO ADMITTED THAT REACHING AGREEMENT ON A LIST WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIFFICULT. HE NOTED AFRICANS HAVE REVISED THEIR LIST BY INSERTING PRIORITIES. COFFEE IS GIVEN FIRST PLACE. WHILE THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG LDCS ON A NUMBER OF COMMODITIES OR COMMODITY GROUPS.

PROBLEM WILL BE CREATED IF AFRICANS INSIST ON PRIORITY FOR COFFEE. SECRETARIAT TRYING WORK OUT VARIOUS OPTIONS SUCH AS GIVING PRIORITY TO COFFEE AND SENDING IT TO COFFEE COUNCIL. ALSO, SECRETARIAT BELIEVES MIGHT BE EASIER TO OVERCOME RESISTANCE IF INITIAL LIST FOR 1973 INCLUDES COMMODITIES PRODUCED IN MANY COUNTRIES FROM ALL REGIONS. THIS IS WHY FATS AND OILS ARE PRIME CANDIDATE EVEN THOUGH SECRETARIAT REALIZED DIFFERENCES AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE MORE PRONOUNCED ON THIS COMMODITY GROUP. RIMESTAD UNQUOTE ROGERS

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